

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claim 6 is objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1-33 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,669,350 (hereinafter "Patent '350").

Claims 1-3, 9-10, 23-25 and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Atsushi Saito (JP 2001-143512A) (hereinafter "Saito").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer concurrently herewith to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejection over Patent '350. Moreover, Applicants herein submit a verified translation of the Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-380893. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 9-10, 23-25 and 31-32 remain pending in this application for further consideration.

Priority

Applicants filed a Continuation Application of Prior Application No. 10/013,671 on July 14, 2003. In Section 3 of the Continuation Patent Application Transmittal Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b), Applicants canceled claims 4-8, 11-22, 26-30 and 33 and amended the specification by inserting "This application is a continuation of copending Application No. 10/013,671 filed on

December 13, 2001.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s concerns regarding the Priority have been addressed.

Objection to Claim 6

The Office Action objects to claim 6 because of informalities. As noted above, Applicants have canceled claim 6 when filing the Continuation Application of Prior Application No. 10/013,671 on July 14, 2003. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claim 6 be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-33 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of Patent ‘350. While Applicants have canceled claims 4-8, 11-22, 26-30 and 33, as indicated above, Applicants herein submit a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-3, 9-10, 23-25 and 31-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Saito. Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 102 rejection for at least the following reasons.

The present application is a continuation patent application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of prior patent application No. 10/013,671, the priority document of which is Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-380893 and was filed on December 14, 2000. A verified translation thereof is submitted herewith. Since the filing date of the priority document is before the publication date of Saito, which was May 25, 2001, Saito should be excluded as prior art to the present application. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Saito is disqualified as prior art.

Moreover, even if Saito is cited as prior art, Applicants still respectfully submit that Saito fails to anticipate the present invention. For example, the Office Action alleges on page 4 that Saito discloses a planar light source system having a light guide (3) and a light deflecting device (5), wherein many arc-shaped elongated lenses are formed on at least one surface of the light deflecting device. In contrast to the present invention, however, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no disclosure in Saito that the arc-shaped elongated lenses formed on one surface of the light deflecting device. In other words, Applicants respectfully submit that Saito fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination including at least a recited feature of “many substantially arc-shaped elongated lenses are formed in parallel to each other on at least one surface of said light deflecting device so as to surround said primary light source,” as recited by independent claim 1. For similar reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Saito fails to teach or suggest the claimed combination including at least a recited feature of “said light deflecting device ... has many elongated lenses arranged in parallel to each other on at least one surface thereof,” as recited by independent claim 23.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) should be withdrawn because the applied reference is improper prior art. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections of dependent claims 2-3, 9-10, 24-25 and 31-32 should also be withdrawn at least because of their dependencies upon the respective independent claims 1 and 23, and for the reasons set forth above.

With no other rejections pending, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-3, 9-10, 23-25 and 31-32 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

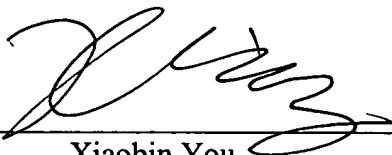
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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